

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Butler-Kilpatrick Match.

The "return match" in the "home and home" series between Generals Butler and Kilpatrick is going on finely. The "innings" (to borrow a figure from cricket) at Lowell last fall ended in a howling out of Kilpatrick with a very small score. In the present Washington match, Butler first went to the bat, and it looked for a while as if his Chili friend would be also batted out of his game, with neither honors nor profits. But now the latter has suddenly relieved himself, so that we are already prepared to hail him victor.

We speak this metaphorically of the contest over the "consolidation of the South American Missions"—which, after being effected in the House, at Butler's instance, has just been undone again in the Senate at Kilpatrick's instance—because those gentlemen represent this to be "purely a personal matter." Or, rather, General Butler takes the ground that he is proceeding from purely patriotic and General Kilpatrick from purely personal motives. While General Kilpatrick makes, curiously enough, exactly the same point against General Butler. Kilpatrick says that Butler resolved last November to "crush Kilpatrick," and that "now the blow has come." It is so, not only does Kilpatrick evidence a "Blair's" instance, but Butler as evidently admits that he has claims; or else he himself would not try to "crush Kilpatrick" in this particular way.

Butler, we repeat, carried the House by a great majority, while Kilpatrick has carried the Senate by a majority equally great. Which of the two must yield? Butler defends his proposition on the highest of grounds—economy; and that is precisely the ground on which Kilpatrick defends his. Which is right? And is it a "national" or a "personal" matter—this one of the Chili and Peru Missions? Here is a fine chance for oil on the troubled waters—for a compromise between Butler and Kilpatrick, arranged by some mutual friend of both.

The New Cabinet.

We are gradually discovering who are not going into the new Cabinet. The Springfield Republican announces by authority apparently, that Mr. Brants "does not wish to continue Attorney-General under Grant." Were he offered the post of his old friend Mr. Seward his feelings might be different, but he will not serve as Attorney-General under the new administration. Mr. J. W. Forney reminds us that "under Polk, Buchanan was regarded as the future Secretary of State three months before the inauguration; so with Webster under Taylor, Marcy under Pierce, and Seward under Lincoln. Now, however, the whole situation impresses everybody with the belief that no man who can manage such a condition of affairs so wisely, shows by this single trait a rare aptitude for the great work confided to him by a grateful people." Even Mr. Gideon Welles, it is rumored, contemplates retirement, and feels no interest in the naval appropriations. We can hardly credit this. Mr. Doollittle certainly does not intend entering the Cabinet, as he proposes coming to New York to reside. Nor do we suppose that Mr. Henderson has any ambition of this kind, or he would not run away to Ohio. Thus we might continue our quest of elimination, if the designation were really of value.

The truth is, this "Cabinet question" is of little interest to anybody but the small company of politicians who live in the city of Washington. We should like to know the names early enough on March 4 to have decent biographical sketches written for the Tribune of March 5, but there our curiosity ends. The Cabinet is not an essential part of the Government. In a pinch, we have no doubt republican institutions could survive the omission to appoint any Cabinet at all. The offices are created to give the Executive efficiency. A Cabinet serves the President as a staff select of the general of an army, and it remains for the President to say what service it shall perform. He may select statesmen and experienced politicians, whose province it would be to counsel him—leaving the routine work to subordinates. He may take representative party men, and give his Cabinet a political significance. He may call around him counsellors, or creatures, or workers—the country holds him not to them responsible. When Gen. Washington became President he gave the State Department to a man eminent among "the statesmen" of the period. His Attorney-General was a superficial lawyer. His Secretary of the Treasury was an aide on his military staff, a young man of thirty-three. "You are to marshal us as may be best for the public good." This was Jefferson's theory of the President's relations to his Cabinet officers. Washington treated them as ministers, with power at times to overrule his own decisions; at merry times they gave him when the ambition of Hamilton and Jefferson began to feaster! Jackson's Cabinet was composed finally of creatures—blind mediums of his will—such a Cabinet as we now see under Mr. Johnson. Mr. Seward assures us that a Secretary is merely the "deacon" of the church. We therefore presume Mr. Johnson's theory to be that his Cabinet advisers serve at his feasts and distribute the bread and the wine. He has certainly been well served. It is a pity that he has dropped the name of his rivals at the Chicago Convention into a hat and taken out the first seven. His Cabinet was neither one thing nor another. His policy, for instance, had no more unsparring critic than the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Chase. Omitting Seward, Chase, and Stanton, Lincoln's Cabinet was weak, and of these three Mr. Stanton was probably the only one upon whom he could lean, or who was personally devoted to him. If the war had not held the Lincoln Government together by the force of outside pressure, it would have been shattered in two years.

General Grant will find precedents for every course he may take but one. No President has ever made his Cabinet merely so many staff officers, and selected them without regard to their politics, influence, or fame. It is possible he may consider that to do this will be to best serve the public, and that he means to put men in power who will do the civil work, and not be responsible. When Gen. Washington became President he gave the State Department to a man eminent among "the statesmen" of the period. His Attorney-General was a superficial lawyer. His Secretary of the Treasury was an aide on his military staff, a young man of thirty-three. "You are to marshal us as may be best for the public good." This was Jefferson's theory of the President's relations to his Cabinet officers. Washington treated them as ministers, with power at times to overrule his own decisions; at merry times they gave him when the ambition of Hamilton and Jefferson began to feaster! Jackson's Cabinet was composed finally of creatures—blind mediums of his will—such a Cabinet as we now see under Mr. Johnson. Mr. Seward assures us that a Secretary is merely the "deacon" of the church. We therefore presume Mr. Johnson's theory to be that his Cabinet advisers serve at his feasts and distribute the bread and the wine. He has certainly been well served. It is a pity that he has dropped the name of his rivals at the Chicago Convention into a hat and taken out the first seven. His Cabinet was neither one thing nor another. His policy, for instance, had no more unsparring critic than the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Chase. Omitting Seward, Chase, and Stanton, Lincoln's Cabinet was weak, and of these three Mr. Stanton was probably the only one upon whom he could lean, or who was personally devoted to him. If the war had not held the Lincoln Government together by the force of outside pressure, it would have been shattered in two years.

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Reduction of the Army.

It is agreed on all hands that a reduction of the army is both practicable and desirable, and yet, in the multiplicity of methods of reduction, it begins to be somewhat questionable whether some of the various plans will not counteract so as to give us no immediate reduction at all.

Congress, meanwhile, has unquestionably gone to work in the right way by taking the opinions of sound and able officers of intelligence, candor, and experience. The remedy proposed by nearly all these officers is consolidation—consolidation of all sorts, from companies in the field up to bureaus in Washington; and Secretary Schofield capped the climax by suggesting the consolidation of the War and Navy Departments under one head. Now the important and hopeful feature in this theory of "consolidation" is that it reduces expenses in the most expensive part of the military establishment—namely, among officers. You must discharge a great many private soldiers before you equal the saving made by mustering out one officer. You can defray with a Major-General's pay and allowances the wages of a great many soldiers.

Hence, we say, the striking feature of the plans proposed of late by officers on the ground is that it destroys the wholesale slaughter of departmental bureaus where so much meretricious work is done by those who have the rank and pay of high commissioned officers. And yet, the moment that a proposition is broached to carry "consolidation" into practical effect, it arouses hostility. For example, Mr. Wilson's bill proposes to reduce the infantry regiments to thirty, by consolidating such of them as may at any time fall below a certain fixed mark of regimental strength, from the natural causes of depletion. This proposition calls out opposition on the ground that it "destroys the identity of regiments" and "blots out their record." But, after all, you must either do that or blot out some regiments altogether. You cannot have your cake and eat it. And we venture to say that this mode of reduction would be more acceptable in general than the rude turning out of their profession of officers whose only crime is that they are detestable.

Many of the new regiments are officered by men once connected with old ones, and promoted to their new commands for special gallantry in the war. What will you do with them? Turn them out altogether? Set them adrift with no profession? It seems to us that Mr. Wilson's proposition is much more just in making the reduction less sudden and providing vacancies for officers whom we raised to their places only the other day. The fact is, that we treat the army officers rather cavalierly in thus constantly expanding and contracting the army by legislation, each time snapping off official heads by the score in the process. It was we who appointed them to their present commands, mainly as rewards for service. What should therefore make our economies on a little more than possible to them. It is worse than perpetually giving medals for service, and then taking them away again for a whim; because it is occupations that we are dealing with.

It is also clear that in any system of reorganization some sacrifice of the constituent parts of corps must be made. But by leaving details to the War Department—and, substantially, to General Grant—Mr. Wilson's bill provides that practical justice may be done. The regiments will doubtless be re-identified by their names, numbers, and flags will remain. As it is, there is a perpetual ebb and flow of the rank and file in every regiment, whereby, though its traditions and honors remain, its actual members change. As for officers, their own promotions carry them from regiment to regiment.

Our purpose, however, is not specially to commend Senator Wilson's bill as the best possible method of reduction. On the contrary, we think that, in connection with it, some preliminary reductions could be effected. We only wish to show that it is hopeless to wait for a plan to which no possible objection could be raised.

General Grant and the Republican Party.

An editorial of the Times, though written with a different aim, corroborates all the World has said respecting the distrust and ill-feeling which have grown up between General Grant and the Republican leaders. Trying to deny all that, the Times finds itself able to deny so little that it denounces rather than effaces the impression that General Grant and the Republican leaders have no confidence in each other. The President-elect, the Times would have us think, is going to appeal from the Republican leaders to the Republican masses; that is, he is going to unseat the recognized chiefs of the party and mount into their vacant saddle himself. But as he has never been a Republican, except *pro hac vice* to be a candidate for office, the *steed* may prove a little restive under so raw a rider. The Times has a clear enough perception of the difficulty, and seeks to evade it by suggesting that General Grant will form a new party of his own, consisting of the conservative Republicans and moderate Democrats, using each of the old parties as a quarry for the construction of his new edifice. This is the same idea which the Seward clique put into the head of President Johnson, and which blossomed out in the famous Philadelphia Convention. We doubt whether the success of that brilliant endeavor has possessed the masses of either party in favor of a similar experiment.

The Times' article makes General Grant about the same kind of a Republican that President Johnson affected to be in 1865-6, and conjectures that he will adopt the same tactics. We have no leisure to look into the files of the Times for the year preceding the Philadelphia Convention; but if our memory be not at fault, such a search would supply us with many articles in the same vein as the one quoted—articles the burden of which was to show that the Republican party had accomplished its mission, and to facilitate the formation of a new party composed chiefly of Republican elements, with a sufficient accession of Democrats to overbalance the loss of the radicals. The role assigned to President Johnson then, was similar to that suggested for General Grant now.

It is so easy for the mind to slide into former trains of thought, that it may not be very surprising that the editor of the Times, who was the author of the Philadelphia Address, should look at the same subjects from the same points of view. But one would suppose that he, at least, would remember the autumn blight of that movement, as well as its spring buds. He was pitched neck-and-heels out of the Republican National Committee, of which he was chairman, like Satan over the battlements of heaven; and he suddenly abandoned the movement when he found that the Democratic Convention of this State could not be inveigled into a compromise of its position. True indeed it is that General Grant was a Philadelphia Convention man, as well as Mr. Raymond, and that he stood at the right hand of President Johnson when he received the Philadelphia Commit-

Real Estate at Auction.

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No. 1, five-story brick hotel and dwelling, No. 1, Spruce street, between Front and Second streets. All that five-story brick message and lot of ground, situated on the south side of Spruce street, between Front and Second streets, No. 114, containing in front on Spruce street 21 feet, and extending in depth about 102 feet. It is occupied as hotel and dwelling. The first floor is a large bar-room, dining-room, and kitchen, with private entrance on the second floor, 3 chambers, 2 bath-rooms and water-closet, and on the third, fourth, and fifth stories, in all about 28 rooms. Clear of all incumbrances. Terms—Half cash, possession on or about April 1, 1869. The above property is convenient to the Spruce Street Market, and near the Delaware river.

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No. 1, very valuable Business Stand, southwest corner of Market and Strawberry streets. The stand is situated on the southwest corner of Market and Strawberry streets; containing in front on Market street 14 feet, and extending in depth on Strawberry street 10 feet. It is occupied as a water range, etc. Terms—Half cash. Possession on or about June 20, 1869. Present rent, \$2500 a year. The above is an old and well-established business stand.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, the following described property, viz:—

No. 2, four-story brick house, No. 2 Strawberry street—All that valuable four-story brick store and lot of ground, on the west side of Strawberry street, south of Market street, No. 2, containing in front 14 feet 6 inches, and in depth 102 feet, more or less. Terms—Half cash. Possession on or about July 25, 1870.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all those 2 1/2-story brick messages and the lot of ground thereunto belonging, situated on the easterly side of Ridge avenue, Nos. 1347 and 1348; the lot containing in front on Ridge avenue 36 feet, and extending in depth on the north side of Ridge avenue 100 feet, and on the south side 77 feet 5 inches. The first floor is occupied as two stores, each having plate glass, etc.; the upper rooms are furnished and occupied by societies. It is a valuable business location. The furniture and gas fixtures are included in the sale, free of charge. Subject to a yearly ground rent of \$144. Possession on or about July 15, 1870. May be examined any day previous to sale.

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26 lots of ground, 25x100 feet, Pacific City (a city in prospect), in Washington Territory, containing 1,410 of the undivided part of said Pacific City. Also, 4 lots in Syracuse, Oregon, each 25x100 feet. Also, 21 lots in Canby, Oregon, each 25x100 feet. Also, 1 lot in Butteville, Oregon, 1/2 of 1/2 acres. Also, 1 lot in Butteville, Oregon, 25x100 feet. Also, 1 lot in claim to 840 acres, near Oregon City, Oregon.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all that valuable tract of land, situated on the White Horse turnpike, Camden county, N. J., about six miles from Camden, adjoining the well-known farm of Charles W. Willis and Chalkley Albertson; it has a variety of soil, portion being heavy loam, suitable for grass or grain, and a portion for trucking. Streams of never-failing water pass through the entire farm, making it desirable for dairy purposes. 800 apple trees of choice varieties. The improvements include a comfortable 7 rooms, barn, spring house, and out-buildings. A pump of excellent water in kitchen. Terms—Three-fourths of the purchase money may remain on mortgage. Will be shown on application to the tenant, Mr. George W. Hays.

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REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all those 2 1/2-story brick messages and lots of ground, situated on the easterly side of Beach street, Nos. 1067 and 1068; each lot containing in front 17 feet, and extending in depth 60 feet. The houses have recently been put in thorough order. Clear of all incumbrances. Possession April 1, 1869.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all those 2 1/2-story brick messages and lots of ground, situated on the easterly side of Beach street, Nos. 1067 and 1068; each lot containing in front 17 feet, and extending in depth 60 feet. The houses have recently been put in thorough order. Clear of all incumbrances. Possession April 1, 1869.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all those 2 1/2-story brick messages and lots of ground, situated on the easterly side of Beach street, Nos. 1067 and 1068; each lot containing in front 17 feet, and extending in depth 60 feet. The houses have recently been put in thorough order. Clear of all incumbrances. Possession April 1, 1869.

Real Estate at Auction.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, the following described property, viz:—

No. 1, five-story brick hotel and dwelling, No. 1, Spruce street, between Front and Second streets. All that five-story brick message and lot of ground, situated on the south side of Spruce street, between Front and Second streets, No. 114, containing in front on Spruce street 21 feet, and extending in depth about 102 feet. It is occupied as hotel and dwelling. The first floor is a large bar-room, dining-room, and kitchen, with private entrance on the second floor, 3 chambers, 2 bath-rooms and water-closet, and on the third, fourth, and fifth stories, in all about 28 rooms. Clear of all incumbrances. Terms—Half cash, possession on or about April 1, 1869. The above property is convenient to the Spruce Street Market, and near the Delaware river.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, the following described property, viz:—

No. 1, very valuable Business Stand, southwest corner of Market and Strawberry streets. The stand is situated on the southwest corner of Market and Strawberry streets; containing in front on Market street 14 feet, and extending in depth on Strawberry street 10 feet. It is occupied as a water range, etc. Terms—Half cash. Possession on or about June 20, 1869. Present rent, \$2500 a year. The above is an old and well-established business stand.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, the following described property, viz:—

No. 2, four-story brick house, No. 2 Strawberry street—All that valuable four-story brick store and lot of ground, on the west side of Strawberry street, south of Market street, No. 2, containing in front 14 feet 6 inches, and in depth 102 feet, more or less. Terms—Half cash. Possession on or about July 25, 1870.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all those 2 1/2-story brick messages and the lot of ground thereunto belonging, situated on the easterly side of Ridge avenue, Nos. 1347 and 1348; the lot containing in front on Ridge avenue 36 feet, and extending in depth on the north side of Ridge avenue 100 feet, and on the south side 77 feet 5 inches. The first floor is occupied as two stores, each having plate glass, etc.; the upper rooms are furnished and occupied by societies. It is a valuable business location. The furniture and gas fixtures are included in the sale, free of charge. Subject to a yearly ground rent of \$144. Possession on or about July 15, 1870. May be examined any day previous to sale.

REAL ESTATE—THOMAS & SONS' SALE—On Tuesday, February 23, 1869, at 12 o'clock, noon, will be sold at public sale, at the Philadelphia Exchange, all the title and interest of L. F. Barry, trustee of Michael Herr, in the following property, viz:—